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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,419	12/30/1999	EDWARD B. EYCHISON	SONY-50M2430	7826

7590 08/27/2002

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EXAMINER

BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PA

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/476,419

Applicant(s)

EYCHISON, EDWARD B.

Examiner

Douglas B Blair

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,353,848 to Morris.

3. As to claim 1, Morris teaches a method of operating a plurality of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network (col. 4, lines 34-44, A digital camera is a consumer electronic device.), said method comprising the steps of:

a) configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization (col. 12, lines 38-51, Each camera provides security and account information when registered.);

b) receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user (col. 12, lines 38-51);

c) based on said identity, said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy (col. 12, lines 38-51, The executable program acts as a resource manager.);

d) provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available (col. 12, lines 52-59, The executable program extends a connection if there is an established connection.); and

e) provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to said network causing said plurality of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request (col. 12, lines 52-59, The client has remote access via the executable program.).

4. As to claim 2, Morris teaches a method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of returning a failure message to said user when said service request violates said access policy (col. 12, lines 38-51).

5. As to claim 3, Morris teaches a method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining a record of activities of said user (col. 14, lines 12-30).

6. As to claim 4, Morris teaches a method as recited in claim 3 wherein said step (c) comprises the step of retrieving said record of activities of said user from a log database provided said access policy is dependent on user activities (col. 14, lines 12-30).

7. As to claim 5, Morris teaches a method as described in claim 1 further comprising the steps of: communicating user identification information of said user to said server (col. 12, lines 38-51); authenticating said user identification information (col. 12, lines 38-51); and provided

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said user identification information is unauthenticated, denying said user access to resources of said network (col. 12, lines 38-51).

8. As to claim 6, Morris teaches a method as described in claim 5 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of consumer electronic devices (col. 12, lines 60-67 and col. 13, lines 1-3, The camera is a hard resource and the images and data are soft resources.).

9. As to claim 7, Morris teaches a method as described in claim 6 wherein said step (d) comprises the step of accessing a resource pool, wherein said resource pool contains information regarding availability of said hard resources (col. 14, lines 12-30).

10. As to claim 8, Morris teaches a method as recited in claim 1 wherein said access policy is stored in a policy database accessible by said resource manager (col. 12, lines 38-51, The executable program accesses the security and account information. By definition a database is: a usually large collection of data organized especially for rapid search and retrieval (as by a computer), therefore, the access information taught by Morris can be considered a database.).

11. As to claims 9-16, they have similar limitations to claims 1-8, respectively, and are thus rejected on the same basis as claims 1-8.

12. As to claims 17-23, they have similar limitations to claims 1-7, respectively, and are thus rejected on the same basis as claims 1-7. Morris teaches an embodiment using a home server. (col. 12, lines 52-59, A web server can be considered a home server and the executable program runs in a web server).

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Conclusion

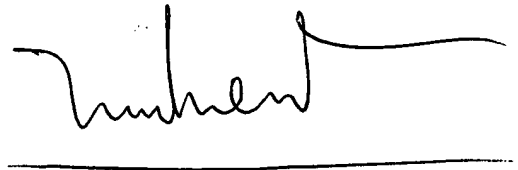
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B Blair whose telephone number is 703-305-5267. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6:30pm Mon-Thurs, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703)305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-9731 for regular communications and (703)305-9731 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Douglas Blair
August 21, 2002

DBB



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PRIMARY EXAMINER